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Open invitation to test automatic fire escape – 1930

THE novel sight of people being lowered from an upper window of Messrs Macintosh's establishment in Market Street, Cambridge, by means of a new automatic fire escape has attracted considerable attention.

The escape consists of a small metal box containing a geared mechanism through which runs a steel cable with a safety belt fixed at each end. It can be fixed to the wall inside the window.

The belt is placed round the body, under the arms, and the person is lowered to the ground automatically at the rate of two feet per second.

Most of the colleges have been equipped with it.

Anybody desirous of testing the escape can do so and already a number of people, including one of the Cambridge Daily News photographers, have done so.

A new fire escape was built at the premises of Messrs Macintosh with an open invitation to test it out

Magistrate is summoned for not clearing snow – 1919

AT the Cambridge Borough Court, a county magistrate living in Hills Road, Cambridge, was summoned that, as occupier of premises, he did not as soon as conveniently may be after the cessation of a fall of snow, remove or cause to be removed from the footway and pavement all snow on such footway and pavement.

He did not appear, but sent a letter to the Bench explaining that he only had one domestic, and could not call on her to clear the snow away.

An odd man, who was called, wanted an extravagant sum for removing it.

The mayor said the case was a proper one for the police to bring before the court.

It was a considerable comfort to the public if every householder cleared away the snow from his own frontage.

He warned the public that cases of this kind would be dealt with more severely in the future, but as this was the first of the kind to come before the Bench this year, they had decided to dismiss it on payment of costs.

Prompt brandy administration saves lives – 1903

APPLICATION was made for a new full licence in respect of the former Three Horseshoes at Knapwell.

It was discontinued as the former owner had extreme views on the temperance question and purposely shut the house up.

The nearest public house was at Elsworth and if a man had to walk two miles to fetch his supper beer there was a great temptation for him to have more before he left. It was the wish of the inhabitants that they should have some means of obtaining drink in the village.

Many lives were saved by the prompt administration of brandy during an illness; cases might frequently occur at Knapwell and lives be lost through there being no stimulant brandy.

Church protestors cry 'blasphemy' during service – 1901

THERE was an extraordinary scene at a Gamlingay church.

Mr Kensit and two Wickcliffe preachers occupied a pew immediately in front of the rood screen.

Everything went on quietly until the point in the service where the bread and wine are blessed and, on the vicar raising the same and bowing, a cry of 'blasphemy' rang though the church.

Then the three objectors quietly stood up in their places. Mr Kensit said: "As a loyal churchman, I protest against this service. This is blasphemous."

In a moment, the church was in uproar. Men ran from the choir stalls and surrounded the protestors.

They left the church followed by two-thirds of the congregation.

Application was made in 1903 to re-open the only pub in Knapwell

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